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Economic and Social Council

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Agenda item 4 (b)
Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following theme: coordinated implementation by the United Nations system of the Habitat Agenda

Draft agreed conclusions submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Mr. Gerhard Pfanzelter (Austria)

1. The Economic and Social Council, together with the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Settlements, constitutes a three-tiered intergovernmental mechanism to oversee the coordination of activities for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.[1] [2]

2. The Council takes note of the efforts of the Commission on Human Settlements in promoting, reviewing, monitoring and assessing progress made in implementing the twin goals of the Habitat Agenda: adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development,[3] recognizing that the overall thrust of the new strategic vision for the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements and its emphasis on two global campaigns, concerning secure tenure and urban governance, are strategic points of entry for the effective implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

3. The Council stresses the need for and critical role of capacity-building and international cooperation in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

4. The Council requests the relevant United Nations bodies and agencies, in particular the Executive Committee of the United Nations Development Group, to undertake a review of the follow-up of their commitments on implementing the goals of the Habitat Agenda, as part of the preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the

[1] See General Assembly resolution 51/177, para. 13.

[2] See *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II, paras. 214 and 226.

[3] Ibid., para. 222.

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implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II).

5. The Commission on Human Settlements acting as the preparatory committee for the special session is encouraged to look at ways to ensure that the specialized agencies and other United Nations system organizations cooperate closely with it in the preparatory process for the special session.

6. Recalling General Assembly resolution 35/77 C of December 1980, the Economic and Social Council requests the Secretary-General to review the matter of the participation of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements in all aspects of the work of the Administrative Committee on Coordination and its subsidiary machinery, in the light of its role as focal point within the United Nations system on implementing the Habitat Agenda.

7. The Council also invites the Administrative Committee on Coordination to include in the agenda of its meetings issues relating to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, and requests the Secretary-General to organize regular briefings to inform Member States on the Committee's deliberations.

8. The Council notes the proposal to merge existing initiatives into a streamlined Urban Forum.

9. The Council calls upon national Governments, local authorities and other partners to renew their commitments towards the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and to intensify the scope and level of preparatory activities at the local, national and regional levels. In this context, the Council notes the creation of the Advisory Committee of Local Authorities to advise the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements on the role of local authorities in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

10. The Council emphasizes the particular significance of the commitments of the Habitat Agenda with regard to cross-cutting issues (e.g., sustainable human settlements, urban poverty, gender, involvement of the civil society), and recommends their inclusion when setting up working agendas for future coordination segments of the Council.

11. The Council welcomes the progress made during the first session of the Commission on Human Settlements acting as the preparatory committee for the special session of the General Assembly for an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), including its decision to discuss a declaration on cities and human settlements in the new millennium, to be adopted by the General Assembly at the special session.[4]

12. The Council requests the Secretary-General to consider adopting a Habitat Agenda task manager system to facilitate coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda by the United Nations system, and to streamline reporting to the Commission on Human Settlements and to the Council, in accordance with the framework presented in the present agreed conclusions.

[4] See A/55/121, annex I, resolution 1/3, para. 16.

13. The Council requests the Secretary-General, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 54/208, to appoint a full-time Executive Director for the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements and to fill vacancies for high-level positions in the Centre in order to strengthen its capacity, in particular in the preparatory process for the special session.

14. The Council requests the regional commissions to facilitate the holding of regional meetings in preparation for the special session.[5]

15. The Council requests the Secretary-General to call on member States to make voluntary financial contributions to the Secretariat to assist developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, to participate fully in the special session and its preparatory process.[6]

16. The Council calls upon the international community, in particular developed countries, to continue providing the necessary technical and financial support for the elaboration by developing countries of their national reports on the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

[5] See General Assembly resolution 53/180, paras. 11 and 12; and A/55/121, annex I, resolution 1/3, para. 8.

[6] See General Assembly resolutions 53/180, para. 14, and 54/209, para. 5.